

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

REC'D 21 APR 2004

REPORT PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference APM:FP18058 | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416). |
| International Application No. PCT/AU2003/001046 | International Filing Date (day/month/year) 18 August 2003 | Priority Date (day/month/year) 21 August 2002 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 E21B 23/14, 31/20 | | |
| Applicant 2IC AUSTRALIA PTY LTD et al | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

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| Date of submission of the demand 19 March 2004 | Date of completion of the report 6 April 2004 |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929 | Authorized Officer BARRY STEPHENS Telephone No. (02) 6283 2106 |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001046

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:
 - the international application as originally filed.
 - the description, pages , as originally filed, pages , filed with the demand, pages , received on with the letter of
 - the claims, pages , as originally filed, pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19, pages , filed with the demand, pages , received on with the letter of
 - the drawings, pages , as originally filed, pages , filed with the demand, pages , received on with the letter of
 - the sequence listing part of the description:
 - pages , as originally filed
 - pages , filed with the demand
 - pages , received on with the letter of
2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:
 - the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 - the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 - the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished
4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/fig.
5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001046

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

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|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims 1-23 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims 1-23 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1-23 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:

WO 1997/18382 and WO 1997/08379

Neither of the cited references discloses a spear point having a positioning system for urging the spear point toward one of a plurality of angularly spaced positions, as claimed in claim 1. For example, WO 97/18382 allows the spear point to be pivoted by 90 degrees in opposite directions from a position co-axial with the longitudinal axis of the main body portion (refer to page 6 lines 4-13, and Fig. 1). However there is no provision or suggestion for providing means by which the angle of pivoting of the spear point that is required to positively hold the spearhead assembly in a different position can be varied to suit the application in hand.

Accordingly, it is considered that the claimed invention is novel and possesses an inventive step over the disclosures of the cited prior art documents.